



ועידת התביעות
Claims Conference
Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany

Claims Conference Holocaust Survivor Memoir Collection

Access to the print and/or digital copies of memoirs in this collection is made possible by USHMM on behalf of, and with the support of, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum respects the copyright and other intellectual property rights associated with the materials in its collection and makes good faith efforts to determine the copyright status of such materials. The Museum has a good faith belief that the materials in this collection may be made publicly available. The Museum welcomes additional information about copyright status. If you have additional information or concerns about the copyright ownership of materials in this collection, please contact the Museum's Library by phone at 202-479-9717 or by email at reference@ushmm.org.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

<https://archive.org/details/bib292805>

I ACCUSE
AN ESSAY

JAN.2001

I decided to bring a lawsuit against the German government for all the wrongdoings they did to me, during the war.

I think that after more than a half a Century later, its about time to conclude this matter once and for all.

It must be accountable for the sake of those millions who perished at their hands and for us survivors who are still alive, crying out for justice.

So when my day came to appear in Court, I was there. I was the Prosecutor representing myself, ready to unleash and uncover this hell I went thru, as long as I still remember all those inhumane things done to me and others.

The Defender for Germany was of course a distinguish gentleman, who tried to minimize the Holocaust, trying to convince Judge that things were not so terrible, therefore we don't deserve any special treatment.

After the swearing in ceremony, to tell the truth, the only truth, but the truth, I started my testimony of accusations and the horrible mistreating of myself.

I tried to keep my posture and I asked the Court for forgiveness if my voice will sound traumatic with nervousness and anxiety.

The Judge said to me, I understand and to go ahead and give all the details to the best of my knowledge.

First I mentioned how the war started with the invasion, and right away the persecution and horrible treatment of the Jews, with killings and imprisonments.

Many times I was grabbed in the street by soldiers to do some labor, loading or unloading all kinds of items from trucks or railroad cars.

This went also on with beatings and constant fear of sending to prison or even death.

I was lucky after the work it was done, they let me go.

Then came the time when I was sent away into Germany for slave labor, never to return home again.

The first labor camp was Geppersdorf and my ordeal of four and a half years started.

(next page)

I worked there for 18 months on this big project, a super highway called Reichsautobahn, it was backbreaking work.

Then I was sent to a huge industrial complex called Herman Goring Chemische Werke in Blechhammer, doing all kinds of construction work.

After about 5 months working there, I was sent to a steelmill plant called Laura Hutte, loading and unloading scrap iron, delivering to the ovens for smelting.

Afterwards I was sent to a giant lumber factory called Hubert Land Holzbearbeitung Industrie, constructing barracks, furniture and many items for transportation.

I worked there for about 2 years until 1945, when they evacuated us because of the nearing Russian front.

They took us on a five weeks death march, then they loaded us in locked cattle train, decimated, starved, with so many of us dead which lasted for about a week.

Afterwards the rest of us, more dead than alive we came to this huge camp of Bergen-Belsen.

Finally we were liberated by the British on April 15, 1945.

In between those camps I mentioned above, I was sent to some transit camps, for one or two weeks, which was for the sole purpose of assembling us and shipping out to other places of work, in other words, it was a huge slave market.

So I did all kinds of slave labor, enduring hunger, rigid inhuman treatment and always in fear not to become sick, because this would be a death sentence for me.

To describe fully those few years of my incarceration would take hundreds of pages and months to talk about. It was a living hell never to forget.

We were persecuted, robbed of everything, worked and starved to death, our families were exterminated because they were deemed unfit to do their slave labor for them.

It is not only a case of forget or forgive, it is the obligation to compensate the remaining survivors.

After so many years since the Holocaust and after so many of us survivors passing away, they finally agreed, under worldwide pressure to do something about it.

(next page)

So far we are getting a meager monthly pension, which is for rehabilitation, but for the slave labor we never got paid, now the German Courts are dragging their feet for another few months or perhaps years for repaying their debt, they are not in a hurry.

They know time is working for them and not much time is left for us, all this should have been settled long ago.

There is no substitute of anything, of what they did to us. Besides an obligation, there must be a willingness to repay us in some way.

Your Honor, I could provide some witnesses on my behalf, although their numbers are vanishing every day.

Never before the world has experienced so much turmoil, so much misery, so much slaughter and so much barbarism. Our hope must be, not to see it, never again.

There were many terrible wars and very bad periods back in time, but nothing compared to the Holocaust, of which I was a witness.

There was an order right from the top to exterminate the entire Jewish population and the majority of Germans followed this order and they also had plenty of help to implement it, to please the Nazi regime.

There were single cases when some Gentiles did save Jewish lives, but this was such a small minority.

May God Judge them and help us to preserve our civilization, so we can all live in a better world, and never have again such terrible times.

We need freedom instead of slavery.

Now Your Honor, I rest my case and I am awaiting the Courts decision, to bring justice to my plea, and to bring some light for this darkest chapter in history.

Thank you

BY PAUL BLEICHER

